

## **SECTION 2. STANDARD ARMY RETAIL SUPPLY SYSTEM-GATEWAY (SARSS-GW) SUMMARY**

**2.1 Background.** On 21 December 1988, the Army Vice Chief of Staff approved the Objective Supply Capability (OSC) concept for interfacing with selected standard Army management information systems (STAMIS). These include the Unit Level Logistics System (ULLS), Standard Army Maintenance System-Level 1 (SAMS-1), Direct Support Unit Standard Supply System (DS4), and Standard Army Intermediate Level Supply System (SAILS).

**NOTE:** OSC has undergone a name change and is now called the SARSS-GW. All references to OSC and gateway have been changed or refer to SARSS-GW.

a. The OSC concept was demonstrated successfully during a 60-day test at Fort Hood, TX, from 30 September through 30 November 1988. A prototype became operational at Fort Hood, TX, in December 1990.

b. A software qualification test (SQT) was conducted successfully at Fort Lee, VA, in December 1991, followed by a lead verification site test (LVST) at Fort Hood, TX, from January through August 1992.

**2.2 Objectives.** The SARSS-GW objectives are to:

- a. Make optimum use of automation and communication.
- b. Provide visibility and lateral distribution of available assets down to the direct support (DS) level. Asset visibility and lateral distribution provides the capability to attempt issue of available stocks on an installation, in a defined geographic area, or domain (continental United States [CONUS]), before sending the request for issue to the source of supply (SOS).
- c. Reduce the order portion of order ship time (OST). SARSS-GW posts requests for issue to the SOS the same day the STAMIS generates them.
- d. Provide near-real-time status for unit-level customers.
- e. Create the image of a single supply system.

**2.3 SARSS-GW Methods and Procedures.** The ULLS, SAMS-1, and SARSS send supply transactions directly to the SARSS-GW IAW local policies.

## SARSS-GATEWAY SM

1 MAY 2001

a. Requests for issue do not process through several levels before the SOS receives them. SARSS-GW determines whether assets are available for issue locally, through integrated sustainment maintenance (ISM), or through corps-to corps referral action. If not, the request for issue is forwarded to the SOS through real time requisition processing (RTRP) direct to the NICP or through the Defense Automated Addressing System (DAAS) within hours.

b. SARSS-GW also handles direct inquiries for supply management reports, letting supply and resource managers take a more active role in the supply process.

c. The following are key agencies in implementing the SARSS-GW:

(1) Project Manager, Global Combat Support System – Army (PM GCSSA), which is responsible for overall management.

(2) Logistics Systems Support Center (LSSC), which is responsible for giving advice on SARSS-GW programming.

(3) Defense Mega Center (DMC) at St. Louis, MO, which is responsible for SARSS-GW operations.

(4) United States Army Information Systems Software Development Center, Lee (USAISSDCL), which is responsible for functional software support and programming for each interfacing STAMIS and the SARSS-GW.

**2.4 Summary of SARSS-GW Processing.** SARSS-GW has three levels of processing logic: unit, DS, and intermediate.

a. Each level of logic pertains to different STAMIS, as follows:

(1) The unit-level processing logic pertains to the ULLS and SAMS-1. The SARSS-GW uses unit-level logic to process requests for issue from the ULLS and SAMS-1.

(2) The DS-level processing logic pertained to the DS4, and is no longer used.

(3) The intermediate-level processing logic pertains to intermediate-level supply support systems. The SARSS-GW uses intermediate-level logic to process transactions from the intermediate-level supply support systems.

SARSS-GATEWAY SM  
1 MAY 2001

b. SARSS-GW edits ULLS and SAMS-1 transaction uploads for the Department of Defense Activity Address Code (DODAAC), document number, national item identification number (NIIN), federal supply classification (FSC), quantity, unit of issue (UI), priority designator (PD), class of supply, reparable, aviation intensive management items (AIMI), dollar threshold, funds, Acquisition Advice Code (AAC), Local Supply Source Code (LSSC), and key depot RIC.

(1) SARSS-GW does not process transactions that fail edits for ULLS and SAMS-1 units supported by a SARSS activity. They are forwarded to the intermediate level.

(2) SARSS-GW prepares output for download by the SARSS. Downloaded data is processed accordingly by the STAMIS.

(3) SARSS-GW output to the SOS goes through DAAS many times each day.

**2.4.1 ULLS and SAMS-1 Processing with SARSS-GW.** ULLS and SAMS-1 upload requests for issue (Document Identifier Code [DIC] A0\_s) to the SARSS-GW for processing. SARSS-GW sends a 27-position response message to the requester for each request for issue after it finishes processing that request. Following is a basic overview of the action SARSS-GW takes when processing a request for issue.

a. SARSS-GW identifies the support structure for each ULLS or SAMS-1 to determine its type of direct support unit (DSU) and intermediate-level support (SARSS). This determination directs SARSS-GW to the correct logic path for processing the unit request. The action SARSS-GW takes depends on the support structure.

b. SARSS-GW performs preliminary edits and sends ULLS and SAMS-1 an immediate response message for any transactions that fail an edit.

c. SARSS-GW performs an availability search for requests for issue that pass all edits.

(1) If the item is available for a unit supported by a SARSS1, SARSS-GW forwards the request to the supporting SARSS2AC/B. The request is processed through the SARSS activity and issued by the supporting SSA.

**NOTE:** In each case, the requester receives a response message.

SARSS-GATEWAY SM  
1 MAY 2001

(2) If the item is not available at the supporting SARSS1, the SARSS-GW performs a lateral search using the order-of-search on the Hierarchy Table of the supporting activity for other units with serviceable assets on hand that can be issued.

(3) If the item is available at a nonsupporting activity, SARSS-GW checks the penetration level on the ABF Cross-Reference Table based on the issue priority designator of the request for issue. Partial referrals are not done in unit-level processing.

(4) The action SARSS-GW takes depends on the unit's support structure. Referrals for SARSS and non-SARSS activities are handled differently.

(5) For units supported by a SARSS1, issues made from any other SARSS1 activity in the same corps area are not considered referrals. SARSS-GW uses the same RON/DON concept that SARSS uses.

(a) If a request for issue from a unit supported by a SARSS1 can be filled from any SARSS1 activity, SARSS-GW posts the unit request for download to the SARSS2AC/B and sends the requester a response message.

(b) If a request for issue from a unit supported by a SARSS1 cannot be filled from any SARSS1 activity in that corps, SARSS-GW attempts lateral issue if there are alternate support activities on the Hierarchy Table.

d. If the request for issue cannot be filled locally or through lateral distribution, SARSS-GW processes the request through the ISM and/or corps-to-corps referral logic if it meets the criteria.

e. If the item is not available for issue through any of the above, SARSS-GW passes the request for issue through the DAAS to the national inventory control point (NICP) and:

(1) SARSS-GW forwards a non-dedicated or dedicated due-in transaction and a status update to the supporting SARSS activity.

(2) SARSS-GW sends the requester a response message.

**2.4.2 SARSS Processing with SARSS-GW.** SARSS2AC/B sends output transactions to the SARSS-GW.

a. SARSS2AC/B performs an initial full custodial ABF extract and uploads it to the SARSS-GW.

(1) SARSS2AC/B then periodically uploads a full custodial ABF extract.

(2) SARSS-GW receives ABF updates as changes are posted to the custodial ABF at the SARSS2AC/B. This automated data communication link occurs hourly.

b. SARSS2AC/B uploads all output transactions to the SARSS-GW.

(1) SARSS-GW processes each transaction and posts data to update the SARSS-GW tables.

(2) SARSS-GW then forwards any resulting transactions to the appropriate activities.

c. SARSS2AC/B downloads transactions from the SARSS-GW. Downloaded transactions result from processing ULLS, SAMS-1, and SARSS data.

**2.5 Summary of Improvements with SARSS-GW.** SARSS-GW provides numerous improvements to the supply system.

a. *Order Ship Time (OST)*. Using SARSS-GW reduces the order segment of the order ship time because it processes requests for issue and requisitions immediately. These requisitions process through the DAAS and on to the wholesale system within hours.

b. *Asset Visibility*. SARSS-GW provides asset visibility down through the DS level. For the first time, a single system provides a view of available assets on an installation or in a geographical area. This means SARSS-GW lets supply activities redistribute assets, resulting in a more effective use of available stock. SARSS-GW identifies stocks on hand above the requisitioning objective (RO), reorder point (ROP), and safety level (SL), allowing redistribution of assets based on defined, table-driven criteria.

c. *Costs*. SARSS-GW provides direct and indirect cost savings.

(1) A decrease in OST lowers the number of days supplies spend in the pipeline, translating directly to cost savings.

(2) Reducing the overall OST reduces the amount of on-hand stock a supply activity requires to support its users. Lower stock levels translate into lower inventory and inventory holding costs.

(3) The ability to identify assets for lateral distribution avoids costs, since a user's requirement may be satisfied from local assets instead of passing the requirement to the SOS.

d. *Readiness.* The SARSS-GW improves equipment readiness because it can identify local assets for lateral distribution, or forward requisitions to the SOS within minutes. This decreases the length of time equipment is on deadline.

e. *User Interface.* The SARSS-GW lets users be more involved in the requisition process and provides more information than was available in the past.

(1) ULLS and SAMS-1 users know the status of their requests for issue within minutes after submission, instead of several days.

(2) Although supply support activities (SSAs) and intermediate users do not routinely receive status from the SARSS-GW, they keep abreast of ongoing actions by update transactions that the SARSS-GW generates and downloads daily. In addition, they receive status faster because the SARSS-GW forwards their requisitions to the SOS more quickly.

f. *Supply and Resource Managers.* Supply and resource managers have direct access to the SARSS-GW through a user-friendly, menu-driven program to generate structured queries to specific SARSS-GW database tables. Managers can also view and print management reports.

(1) This makes management reports of key SARSS-GW logistical data available and also lets managers inquire directly to the SARSS-GW database tables for specific information.

(2) In some instances, designated managers are granted permission to update the database tables. This allows local control of actions the SARSS-GW applications take to meet specific command requirements.

**2.6 Manager Reports.** Selected managers can access the following reports (see appendix G for detailed information):

SARSS-GATEWAY SM  
1 MAY 2001

a. *Asset Visibility*. This report lists the storage activity and quantity of on-hand assets. Managers use it to determine availability of on-hand assets at each SSA and intermediate-level support activity on the installation or within a geographical area.

b. *Financial Control*. This report displays external fund status for the installation and internal fund status for each major subordinate command (MSC). Resource managers use it to track and control expenditure of funds.

c. *Terminal Usage*. This report lists all SARSS-GW users by DODAAC and unit name. Managers use it to determine the last date and time any user logged on to the SARSS-GW.

d. *Transaction Document*. This report displays the date, time, and action the SARSS-GW takes on each transaction it processes. Managers use it to determine the result of processing a request for issue.

e. *Transaction Summary*. This report displays the total number, dollar value, and percentage of requests for issue submitted to the SARSS-GW during the report period. Managers use it for statistical data collection.

f. *User Transaction*. This report displays action taken by the SARSS-GW on all transactions for a selected date. Managers use it to determine action taken by the SARSS-GW.

g. *Bottoms-Up*. This report displays monthly bottoms-up reconciliation data for DS4 activities (no longer used).

h. *Referral Statistics*. This report shows referral order data by installation. Managers use it to track referral orders.

i. *Referral Orders Canceled or Overdue by Document Order Number (DON)*. This report lists referral orders canceled by the SARSS-GW and those that are overdue. Managers use it to track referral orders.

j. *DS4/Intermediate Daily Cycle Statistics*. This report lists the file name, transaction quantity, and time uploaded or downloaded for each SARSS-GW session. Managers use it to verify transaction quantities uploaded and downloaded to and from the SARSS-GW.

SARSS-GATEWAY SM  
1 MAY 2001

k. *ULLS and SAMS-1 Daily Statistics*. This report lists data for transactions uploaded to the SARSS-GW. Managers use it to determine the number of transactions uploaded to the SARSS-GW.

l. *Daily Input Stratification*. Supply managers use this report to determine the number of input transactions from each unit, exactly what transactions were received, and what action was taken.

m. *Document History Report*. Supply managers use this report to query the Document History Table. It provides information on DIC A0\_s processed and the action taken by the SARSS-GW. It also provides visibility of associated processing, in addition to SARSS-GW-generated DIC A4\_s, and shows all DIC AE\_s, AS\_s, and D6\_s.

**2.7 Summary of Impacts**. SARSS-GW has no known negative impact on the user's organizational structure and environment.

**2.8 Assumptions and Constraints**. SARSS-GW relies on several assumptions, affected by numerous constraints, as follows:

a. Assumptions:

(1) Hardware and software necessary for the project is available when and where needed.

(2) Communication interfaces perform as required.

(3) Transportation is a major Army command (MACOM) responsibility. MACOM must establish transportation procedures for lateral distribution of assets.

b. Constraints:

(1) Lack of hardware and software inhibits the SARSS-GW application.

(2) Lack of transportation is detrimental to lateral distribution.